The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief review of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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It is better to wear out than rust out.—Bishop Cumberland.

WHOLE NO. 967. WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1929. FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 19, NO. 32.

ORGANIZE THE SOUTH IS CALL TO UNIONS

Toronto, Ontario, Oct. 19.—The story of industrial despots and the wrongs of southern textile workers were told to the American Federation of Labor convention in the most spirited session in many years.

The fighting spirit of old days was revived and pledges of financial and moral support renewed as the convention was swept by the blazing oratory of men and women fresh from that section and who gave first-hand information to the delegates.

Every speaker from President Green down declared that this despotism will be answered by a campaign of organization hitherto unknown in the South.

Not a despondent note was struck. Every speaker called for a crusading spirit and declared his faith in the invincible power of organization and an educated public opinion.

The convention with cheers unanimously adopted a report of the committee on resolutions that denounced this industrial autocracy and proposed plans to meet that challenge. A conference of national and international unions will be called not later than 30 days to make these plans effective.

President Green appointed the following delegates who, with President McMahon of the United Textile Workers, will raise funds for southern textile workers: John P. Burke, Pulp and Sulphite Workers; William F. Canavan, Theatrical Stage Employes; James W. Fitzpatrick, Waterbury Central Labor Union.

NON-PRODUCERS' COST HEAVY TAX ON PUBLIC

Toronto, Ontario, Oct. 19.—The heavy toll consumers pay to non-producers and for waste in industry was illustrated by James Bell, fraternal delegate from the British Trades Union Congress to the A. F. of L. in his greetings to the convention here.

"American cotton is shipped to Liverpool, and is distributed from that port to our textile mills," said Mr. Bell.

"There are a lot of fingers dabbling with that cotton and some of them never touch the cotton. It is sold and sold and sold until it has been turned over 20 times before it reaches Lancashire. Then it is taken to our spinning mills at Oldham, where it is turned into yarn. And from Oldham, which is seven miles from Manchester—I will use that as an illustration—they send the yarn out from there to the county to Blackburn and Burnley and other towns and in these towns the yarn goes to be turned into cloth. Then it is brought back across the county to another place to be finished and dyed."

Mr. Bell cited one instance where a Manchester textile employer bought a yard of cloth in a store in that city for $2.22 American money. The cloth was woven in the employer's mill and he received for that cloth 37 cents in American money.

"That price," said the employer, "included the price of raw cotton, the cost of the labor and any profit I might get out of it."

BRITISH STAGE STARS COPY AMERICAN PLAN

London, England, Oct. 19.—Hundreds of British actors and actresses from the highest paid stars to the least important, read with a ray of hope of a new plan of organization in England, in Germany under the German Federation of Workers, and such is the meaning that will flow from reports from Australia, France, Great Britain and the International Labor Office of the League of Nations. We see this idea spreading in industry today."

RAILWAYMEN'S WAGE INCREASES FAVORED

Ottawa, Ontario, Oct. 19.—Wage increases for conductors, brakemen, yardmen and switchtenders employed on the Canadian Pacific and Canadian National Railways (western division) were unanimously agreed to by a board of conciliation that has filed its findings with the Dominion government. The report, if accepted, will bring western Canadian rates up to eastern Canadian standards.

Suggestions were made to leaders of two actors' organizations that these be abandoned.

TO PROBE BACK PAY OF POSTAL WORKERS

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Oct. 19.—A Dominion commission is in this city investigating the question of back pay for 96 postal workers who took part in the 1919 general strike. This flash-in-the-pan movement swept the western provinces. The postal workers were dismissed but were afterwards re-employed. Although put back at substantially the same work, they were for the most part paid as beginners in the service. They insist that since they were re-employed, and do the same work, their pay should be readjusted. At the last parliamentary session $100,000 was placed in the estimates to provide for the back salaries.

LIFE-SIZE IMAGES NEXT MOVIE STEP

Toronto, Ontario, Oct. 19.—Introduction of life-saving images on a full stage-size screen was predicted at the Society of Motion Picture Engineers at their convention here. The new development, delegates were told, will involve as great a change in the industry as the introduction of the talkies. The effect is as impossible to predict as it was to foresee the effects of sound pictures three years ago.

UNION SMASHING IS ON SCIENTIFIC BASIS

Up-to-date union smashing is on a scientific basis. It is marked by an absence of sensationalism.

The weapon is poison darts that lower the workers' spirit and destroy their morale.

The plan was effectively used against the Central Powers in the World War.

This well-known military tactic is being used by anti-union employers and their allies. Workers are drugged. They are not aware of the process, though they would offer stout resistance if bludgeon methods were applied.

The poison darts are used by employers who give lip loyalty to collective bargaining while they form company "unions," sell stock to employes and promise old age pensions and life insurance.

Psychologists have convinced these employers that control of the human mind is the seat of power.

The recent murder of Marion (N. C.) textile strikers is crude. It is a phase of industrial development that has been experienced in other sections of the country that now adopt the scientific method.

Under the scientific method the trade union theory is never openly attacked. Unorganized workers are lulled into inaction by paternalistic dope while the intelligentsia tearfully point to the failure of unionism to make greater progress in unorganized centers.

The unionists are attacked in front by paternalistic employers, and on one flank by professed "friends" and on the other flank by Communist "borers from within."

This trinity have the same objective, though they use different methods.

The anti-union employer opposes unionism because it is a challenge to his autocracy.

The intelligentsia tells of our failures that our faith may be weakened and that we will sit at his feet to drink in words of wisdom, especially on the value of political activity, which he will direct.

The Communist purpose is less secret.

In each instance organized workers are opposed because they would solve their problems in their own way.

Our opponents will not accept labor's bedrock philosophy—that trade unionists reject the infinitesimal and that they must stand with other men as equals, not only at election day, but every day.

That is our offense.

If organized labor keeps that in mind they will understand why they face every form of opposition that cunning privilege can devise.

Labor Would Curb Injunction Evil; New Injunction Bill Proposed

Toronto, Ontario, Oct. 19.—A bill that is intended to correct the evils of the labor injunction was submitted to the A. F. of L. convention by the Executive Council.

The council was aided by a special committee consisting of Matthew Woll, vice president A. F. of L.; John P. Frey, secretary Metal Trades Department, and Victor Olander, secretary-treasurer Illinois Federation of Labor.

The bill is believed by the unionists to be an improvement on the bill proposed by Senators Norris, Blaine and Walsh (Mont.), who proposed an amendment to the Shipstead injunction bill.

"We firmly believe our proposal," says the Executive Council, "will effectually solve the problems hereinreferred to and that if enacted into law will establish that equality of freedom in our industrial life and industrial relations as to accord to the wage earners of America full protection."

The bill defines and limits the jurisdiction of courts sitting in equity. The public policy of the United States declares in favor of the need of trade unions, and that under prevailing economic conditions unorganized workers are commonly helpless to exercise actual liberty of contract and to protect their freedom of labor.

"It is necessary," the bill states, "for labor to have full freedom of trade union organization and the designation of their representatives to negotiate terms of employment and conditions of labor, and they should be free from the interference, restraint or coercion of employers of labor or their agents."

The bill would outlaw the "yellow dog," would annul the Supreme Court's Bedford cut stone decision which compels unionists to handle non-union products, and ends the practice of making illegal an act done by wage earners if the same act were legal if done by any other group of citizens.

No injunction can be issued unless:

Unlawful acts have been committed and will be continued; irreparable injury to complainant's property will follow; public officials charged with the duty of protecting property are unable or unwilling to furnish adequate protection; employers have made every reasonable effort to adjust the dispute.

The bill would end secret hearings before injunctions are issued. Hearings would be held in open court with both parties privileged to cross-examine.

NATIONAL-OWNED RAILROAD GIVES VOICE TO UNIONISM

Toronto, Ontario, Oct. 19.—The Canadian National Railways, owned by the Dominion government, is a fine example of industrial co-operation, declared Sir Henry Thornton, president of that system, in an address to business men in this city.

Sir Henry expressed the same sentiment in an address to the A. F. of L. convention. The railroad official refuses to treat with any labor group outside of the A. F. of L. or the railroad brotherhoods. He laughingly assured the convention that "this is the largest grievance committee I ever had the pleasure of meeting."

In his talk to business men he frankly avowed his policy of meeting with representatives of employes and declared this has been an unqualified success.

"It was generally assumed," he said, "that a state-owned railway system was at the mercy of labor because labor meant votes, and that a railway could not be efficiently managed when an eye was kept on votes.

"But that is not the case with us. We have arrived at a basis of understanding now with our co-operative movement with our shop workers, and we have short-circuited any selfish or predatory interests.

"We have demonstrated to the world that a state-owned railroad can be run just as efficiently and give just as good service to the public as any private concern.

"Under our system of co-operation with employes we have had 6,300 suggestions from our employes and 72 per cent of them have been adopted.

"We have increased the average wage of shop workers $150 a year and have given them a week's annual holiday."

Sir Henry said that the co-operative practice would be extended to every employe. He pointed to the stupendous task of uniting the 92 companies from coast to coast that go to form the Canadian National. These companies represented $1,528,000,000 in securities. All of their records were "in bad shape," he said.

"RATIONALIZATION" NEW CATCH PHRASE

Toronto, Ontario, Oct. 19.—"Capitalists have a new term to replace their slogan "captive new markets," said James Brownlee of London in his address as fraternal delegate from the British Trades Union Congress to the A. F. of L. convention.

"They used to bear a great deal about markets—get new markets, exploit the undeveloped countries, the backward peoples," said Mr. Brownlee. "They don't talk about new markets today for the simple reason there are no new markets. They have a new slogan 'rationalism,' a term that is used by many persons who do not understand its meaning."

The speaker referred to two reports on this word by the World Economic Conference at Geneva in 1927. The majority report stated, in effect, that "rationalization" means elimination of waste. It includes the scientific organization of labor, standardization both of material and of product, simplification of processes and improvements in the system of transport and marketing."

The minority report, while not opposing the elimination of waste, pointed out that "rationalization," as explained in the majority report, was a purely mechanical process which takes no account of the worker as an intelligent factor, or of the general interest of the community. It cannot bring into action the motive of service and must fail to diffuse the benefits resulting from a reduction of real cost through the body of consumers."

Mr. Brownlee quoted these reports to sustain his point that "rationalization," as now used, was another name for speed up output, eliminate all waste and increase profits. The human element plays no part in the scheme.

COAL REVOLUTION WITHIN 3 YEARS

London, England, Oct. 19.—An international revolution in the coal trade, on the lines of complete international control of production and marketing, within the next three years, was forecast by Frank Hodges, member of the Central Electricity Board, in an address to the meeting of the Coal Trade Association. He was formerly secretary of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain.

Washington, Oct. 19.—Frank Hodges of London, who is an international revolution in the coal industry, represented the British Trades Union Congress at the annual convention of the A. F. of L. in 1923. In his address to that convention he declared that American trade unionists were "taught the world how to maintain the workers' purchasing power and therefore you have maintained a higher standard of living than in any other country.

"You have always emphasized the importance of high wages and have concentrated upon keeping wages at the peak at all times. It is so obvious to us when we come to America that we take our lessons back to the old world to emulate your splendid example."

ECONOMIC TROUBLES MUST FIRST BE MET

San Juan, Porto Rico, Oct. 19.—In his inaugural address as governor of Porto Rico, in the question of electing their governor, who is appointed by the President, while ignoring the lawlessness, unsanitation and illiteracy that is widespread among workers.

The Porto Rican Federation of Labor has urged that economic conditions are of first importance. Wages are pitifully low and the island's resources are being drained by absentee landlords who even refuse to pay their share of taxes.

TRUCKMEN'S STRIKE ENDED IN NEW YORK

New York, Oct. 19.—A two-days' strike of organized market truck teamsters came to an end when employers granted a $2 weekly increase.

Railroads lifted their embargo on fresh fruits and vegetables to this city.

BETTER SOCIAL ORDER IS GERM IN UNIONISM

Toronto, Ontario, Oct. 19.—Organized labor inherently contains within itself the seed of a new and better industrial order, declared Otto S. Beyer, consulting engineer Railway Employes' Department, in an address to the A. F. of L. convention.

Mr. Beyer explained the so-called "union management co-operation" between organized shopmen and the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad and the Canadian National Railways, owned by the Dominion government.

"If you will detect the germ of a new thought, not only in the United States but the world over," said Mr. Beyer, "you will detect evidence of this new concept coming home to people in important positions in industry, be they with labor, management, capital or statesmen.

"More and more people are recognizing that the solution for our so-called industrial problem lies in taking a stand for the regular organizations of labor and bringing into being relations between them and managements, whereby the spokesmen for the organizations of labor consult with management, not only on wages and working conditions, but in respect to the whole gamut of subjects which affect the control and conduct of industry. "Such is the meaning of the conferences we have read about in England, in Germany under the German Federation of Workers, and such is the meaning that we get from reports from Australia, France, Great Britain and the International Labor Office of the League of Nations. We see this idea spreading in industry today."

HEALTH COMES FIRST, UNIONISTS ARE TOLD

Toronto, Ontario, Oct. 12.—"You can not have happiness unless you have health," declared Dr. Forbes Godfrey, Minister of Labor for the Province of Ontario, in an address to the A. F. of L. convention.

"The almighty dollar is all right, but it is secondary. Health, health is more important," said Dr. Godfrey.

"Every person who has any connection with industrial life knows that the handing of lead has handicapped the life of thousands of men engaged in industries in which lead is used. The discovery of titanic oxide solves the problem. In this province we give the world insulin, that great remedy in the treatment of diabetes."

Dr. Godfrey declared that "no person should be allowed to die because he did not have the means to get well. The province, last year, spent $50,000 for insulin that was used by persons afflicted with diabetes. What is $50,000 to save 1,000 patients who could not pay for that remedy?"

PREDICTS HOURS CUT

Smith's Falls, Ontario, Oct. 19.—A reduction in the work day was predicted by A. L. Whitney, president Brotherhood Railway Trainmen, at a meeting here in which public and railroad officials attended.

Mr. Whitney outlined the brotherhood's progress the last few years and explained hazards and handicaps of railroaders' work.

CLERGYMAN SCORES WOMEN'S LOW WAGE

Denver, Oct. 19.—Bitter protest against low wages of women and girls in local department stores was made by Rev. Martin Anderson, pastor of the fashionable First Presbyterian Church.

Rev. Anderson made the protest in a Sunday sermon that has attracted city-wide attention. He declared that wages of $8 a week and lower, that is paid in department and chain stores, are unworthy of a civilized community.

Ontario's Hydro Electric Plant First Urged by Trade Unionists

Toronto, Ontario, Oct. 19.—"Labor urged public ownership long before the Government thought of it," declared Mayor McBride in a successful plea to have the city council reject the recommendation that a lawyer, rather than a member of organized labor, be appointed as Toronto's representative on the Ontario Hydro Commission.

The commission operates the provincial-owned power plant that has harnessed Niagara Falls.

"There are men in this council who talk of trade unionism at election time, but it's only lip loyalty," said the mayor. "Who carried the day for Hydro in the first place? Not me, not you, not the proposed appointee. Why do we want a lawyer on the hydro board? We have able counsel to advise the board on questions of law, but the board does not ask the opinion of counsel on other matters. I have great confidence in the gentleman's knowledge of Hydro affairs. He has not the ability for that position and he has no experience."

The mayor declared that money is not an indication of brains. "Labor," he said, "has been a great part in the progress of this city and one of the labor names should be given consideration. Hydro is the greatest issue in the province and all problems and difficulties of labor who has not fought his way up through the ranks."

A local speaker at the opening day of the A. F. of L. convention contrasted Mayor McBride's present attitude toward organized labor to his position a quarter of a century ago. In reply the mayor said that normal men change their position when the face facts.

KEIR HARDIE'S PHOTO SIGNED BY PREMIER

Toronto, Ontario, Oct. 19.—Thomas R. Downie, well-known union printer and editor Galesburg (Ill.) Labor News, who is attending the A. F. of L. convention, is the proud possessor of an autographed photo of Keir Hardie, founder of the British Labor Party. Hardie presented the photo to the labor editor 31 years ago when both were active in the British labor movement.

The labor editor called on Premier Ramsay MacDonald at the British Embassy at Washington on his way to Toronto, and the leader of the British government signed the photo. He and Mr. Downie talk with the labor editor on their struggles years ago.

"I paid my respects, of course, to the leader of a great nation who is visiting our country, and then I talked with my old pal, Ramsay MacDonald, the days of long ago when we were lined up with Keir Hardie and other veterans in the cause of labor," said Mr. Downie.

"REDS" ARE ROUTED BY GARMENT WORKERS

Toronto, Ontario, Oct. 19.—Communists have been driven from the organized cloak makers of New York with the aid of the A. F. of L., reported delegates from the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union to the annual convention of the A. F. of L.

The cloak makers thanked the A. F. of L. Executive Council, and especially President Green, Vice President Woll, and Representative Edward McGrady for their aid in this contest against disruptive elements.

POLITICAL CONDITIONS IN U. S. UNEQUALLED ELSEWHERE IN WORLD

Toronto, Ontario, Oct. 19.—William Green, president A. F. of L., defended labor's non-partisan political policy against the emphasis placed on Labor Party action by the two British fraternal delegates to the A. F. of L. convention.

The three speakers agreed that conditions were different in the two countries. This was referred to in detail by President Green.

"We do not minimize the importance of political action," he said. "We place the same value upon political action that our brothers in Great Britain place upon it. Our opinion is the result of experience. We will not adopt a policy simply because it succeeds in another country.

"We have a different problem. It is as far from New York to San Francisco as it is from New York to London. We have 48 States with 48 governments. Fully half of these States are larger than England itself. We have a cosmopolitan population, men speaking all languages, men of different tongues and different nationalities. We have our racial questions. These people coming here, and being blended into our American citizenship bring with them all their inherent weaknesses due to national prejudices and national feeling.

"The difficulties are tremendous. It is not possible in this great expanse of country to develop the same party strength and party organization that can be developed in a country as compact as England.

"In Great Britain when an act is passed by Parliament it applies to the people of Great Britain. We must go into the 48 States to secure, for instance, workmen's compensation. Then there is a lack of party spirit. This is being evidenced now in Washington where our national lawmakers are splitting into blocs and groups. There must be a party spirit and a party consciousness before we can proceed along these lines."

"I want our fellow workers from across the sea to understand our situation here. He have a great agricultural country, 3,000 miles in length; we have 48 States, more than half of them larger than England, some of them empires in themselves, and then realize the task in attempting to set up an independent political labor party."

President Green called attention to social legislation that has been secured by labor through the non-partisan plan, which he declared was the only possible one under complex conditions that exist only in the United States.

War-Time Conscription Rejected; Green Pleads for Peace Policies

Toronto, Ontario, Oct. 19.—An appeal for universal conscription by C. L. Bodenheimer, commander, American Legion, was rejected by William Green, president A. F. of L., at the annual convention of the latter organization. The unionist indicated his disagreement with the speaker's war-like sentiment that were carefully presented.

Commander Bodenheimer urged the labor convention to favor the Reed-Wainwright bill, now pending in Congress, which would create a commission to study the principle of conscription. The usual plea to "take the profit out of war" was made. He called conscription "universal service."

President Green said trade unionists agree with the Legion on many questions, including restriction of immigration and of child welfare.

"We have differed very sharply upon the question of universal conscription," said the unionist. "We are not able to see our way clear to support legislation of that kind. We think it rather contradictory to make preparations for war when all are seeking the ways of peace. We know that in every war men profiteer and they almost reach the criminal line. We have not been convinced that it is possible through legislation to compel the money of our country and the material things of our nation to be conscripted in the war time along with the men who serve on the battlefield."

President Green indicated that labor is awake to the difference of conscripting man power while capitalists are limited to a "fair" profit. This is not "universal service" nor is it a "national draft" as explained by advocates.

MACHINERY AGE WILL END TOIL

Toronto, Ontario, Oct. 19.—"The long work day, the long week and low wages are the three Fates of American industry," said Secretary of Labor Davis, in his address to the A. F. of L. convention here.

"Where the worker is so employed he has no time to buy and he has no money to buy," declared the speaker.

Mr. Davis predicted a wonderous future as the result of automatic machinery. "System and machinery," he said, "are making production so rapid and easy that less of the day and week will be needed to turn out the necessities we sell and consume. During the next 50 years this system is certain to be improved. It is hardly fantastic to say that the time will come when the wealth of the world will be produced with hardly more effort than the pulling of a lever or the press of a button. Already many of our hardest mechanical jobs are performed in that way.

"Ultimately much more of our time and energies can be devoted to the improvement of our lives and to the enrichment of our lives. And do not doubt that the intelligence of our people will be equal to guaranteeing all this to labor."

OPPOSE SALES TAX

Toronto, Ontario, Oct. 19.—The sales tax was stamped vicious legislation by the annual convention of the A. F. of L. This measure, the convention reported, is intended to shift taxation to consumption. The worker spends all of his income, and he would pay more in proportion to those whose income now compels them to pay high income tax.

PETER HEENAN'S WIT "SAVES" GOVERNMENT

Toronto, Ontario, Oct. 19.—The Irish wit of Hon. Peter Heenan, Minister of Labor for the Dominion of Canada, saved his country from grave international complications with the United States.

He was introduced by President Green, and arose to address the convention. His chair tipped back and he narrowly escaped a bad spill.

"I am a little embarrassed at you throwing down the Dominion government," he said, as he brushed the dust from his trousers.

Railway Trainmen's Officials Would Affiliate With A. F. of L.

Toronto, Ontario, Oct. 19.—"I know of no reason why our organization should be on the outside of the A. F. of L., looking in," said A. F. Whitney, president Brotherhood Railway Trainmen, in an address to the A. F. of L. convention.

President Whitney stated that before the Montreal meeting was held 103 chairmen of the general committee and grand lodge officers unanimously favored affiliating with the A. F. of L.

"The eight-hour day no longer fits," declared the trainmen's official. The shorter workday is coming. They have been astonishing strides in the introduction of automatic machinery the past ten years. There has been made greater production during that period than in the previous 50-year period.

"Hours should be reduced for two reasons—economic and humanitarian. The workers' purchasing power is necessary to the success of any country, and such men are not employed that purchasing power is reduced and may be reduced to the panic point.

"Shorter hours must be defended from a humanitarian standpoint. When unemployed men walk the streets, when urchins and wives are poorly shod, improperly clothed and in some instances hungry, it is a crime for our people to run excessive miles or work overtime at the expense of this great army of unemployed. We will undertake to correct these conditions with these organizations that are co-operating with us."

SOUTHERN WORKERS NEED TRADE UNIONS

Toronto, Ontario, Oct. 19.—"This is the most opportune time for all organizations to strengthen their unions in the South," declared the Executive Council in its recommendation that all national and international affiliates cooperate with the A. F. of L. in organizing the southern workers.

The convention unanimously adopted the recommendation.

The council called attention to the slow development in the South, which has recently been intensified. This, it was stated, has been the roots for trade unionism.

"Industrialization has progressed more slowly in the South than in most of the other sections of the United States. Unions have been formed and fostered in the printing and building trades and some other crafts. Such unions dealt largely with local companies. But the industrialization of the South has come largely of corporations, absentee capital, holding companies, chain stores and related problems. Progress in power and commission has been followed by wider distribution of industry and has opened up factory employment to workers from agricultural and mountain districts, but with the majority of textile operatives in the South are persons not only with no union background but with no industrial experience or standards.

"Unless these industries are prepared to give a square deal to workers they are not only pillaging the resources of the South, but are sowing the seed of class conflict in most dangerous soil. The Southern worker will not meekly bear injustice when experience teaches him standards of justice."

BRITISH MONEY PLAN BURDENS INDUSTRY

Washington, Oct. 19.—A republication of the British monetary system by economists and influential industrialists of that country should be of interest to the United States because of a similarity of both countries' financial systems.

The Britishers, according to cable dispatches, declare that high interest rates are a burden on industry and that finance, instead of being the handmaiden of the producing trades, is their master."

"The expense of maintaining a free gold market is a burden too great to bear," the survey says. "It is necessary to adopt a monetary policy designed to secure the greatest degree of more wealth within the country. Our present monetary pisition renders this well-nigh impossible."

The survey includes a recommendation that a commission be appointed to investigate the whole working of the present monetary system and to consider the incorporation of such changes as may be necessary to affect an industrial revival and a solution of unemployment on a scientific basis.